

OBITUARY

WILLIAM PERMEWAN, M.D. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), J.P.

By the death of William Permewan, on the 9th March, the specialty has lost one of its senior members and Liverpool one of her most prominent citizens.

Born at Redruth, in Cornwall, in 1865, young Permewan, after completing his school career, entered as a student at University College, London, where he graduated with Honours in 1886, taking the M.D. (Lond.) in 1888, and the F.R.C.S. (Eng.) in the following year. In 1892 he obtained the Diploma in Public Health at the University of Cambridge.

After graduating, Permewan went to Liverpool as House Surgeon to the Liverpool Northern Hospital. This proved to be the first of several appointments in the city of his adoption. Attracted early in his professional life to the study of diseases of the ear and throat, he joined the staff of the Royal Southern Hospital, Liverpool, and of the Southport Infirmary, as aurist and laryngologist. When, in 1914, the University appointed a Lecturer in Laryngology, Permewan was elected to fill the post, which he continued to occupy until his resignation in 1925. He was successful as a teacher, arresting the attention and maintaining the interest of his students by the lucidity and the manner of his exposition.

In the earlier period of his professional career, he made a number of contributions to the literature of the specialty, and took an active part in the discussions at the Liverpool Medical Institution. His scientific articles in the medical press included such subjects as: The Relation of the Nose to Chronic Respiratory Disease, Submucous Resection of the Nasal Septum, The Treatment of Laryngeal Tubercle, and Laryngeal Paralysis in Chronic Nervous Disease. He was Vice-President of the Liverpool Medical Institution, and President of the Liverpool Philomathic Society, in which he took a very active interest.

It is perhaps not incorrect to say that during the latter half of his life, Permewan's public interests overshadowed those of his purely professional calling. He became actively engaged both in municipal and in national politics. He possessed some of the essentials which contribute to success in public affairs; knowledge of his subject, the power of expressing himself cogently and forcibly, readiness in debate, and a quality of voice which strongly appealed to his audience. Permewan soon came to occupy a prominent position in the City Council, of which he was an active member, and for six years represented the Abercromby Ward as a Liberal. He served upon

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the Estate, Water, Library and Museum Committees, and finally, in 1906, he was elected a magistrate, discharging the duties of the office with conspicuous ability. On two occasions he unsuccessfully contested Parliamentary constituencies in Lancashire, on the first occasion being defeated by Mr F. E. Smith, who represented the Conservative party. In 1924, Permewan became an adherent to the same political group as his whilom opponent, now Lord Birkenhead, believing that through it only could an efficient check be placed on the steady growth of Socialism.

A man of genial disposition, Permewan had many friends both in his own profession and among his fellow citizens. Much sympathy is extended to his widow and son from the fact that within the short space of six weeks a double bereavement has overtaken them, an only daughter having so recently predeceased her father.

A. LOGAN TURNER.

GENERAL NOTES

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE,

1 Wimpole Street, London, W. 1.

Section of Laryngology.—*President*, W. H. Kelson, M.D. *Hon. Secretaries*, Philip Franklin, F.R.C.S., 27 Wimpole Street, London, W. 1, and Norman Patterson, F.R.C.S., 82 Portland Place, London, W. 1.

The next Meeting of the Section will be held on Friday, 7th May, at 5 P.M. Members who are desirous of showing patients or specimens are requested to give notice to the *Senior Hon. Secretary*, along with a short précis stating the more important facts.

The Summer Meeting of the Section of Laryngology will be held on Thursday and Friday, the 3rd and 4th June. The first Session will open on Thursday at 4 P.M., and the second on Friday morning at 10 o'clock.

On the evening of Friday, 4th June, the Annual Dinner of the Section will take the form of a Banquet in honour of Sir St Clair Thomson, M.D., for the purpose of recognising his position as President of the Royal Society of Medicine and as an appreciation of his many valuable services to Laryngology. The dinner will be held at 7 for 7.30 at the Hotel Victoria, Northumberland Avenue, W.C. 2. Applications for seats should be made to Mr Norman Patterson, F.R.C.S., 82 Portland Place, London, W. 1.

The arrangements in connection with the Meeting and with the Banquet will be announced in the June number of the *Journal*.

Section of Otology.—*President*, G. J. Jenkins, F.R.C.S. *Hon. Secretaries*, F. W. Watkyn-Thomas, F.R.C.S., 14 Welbeck Street, London, W. 1, and T. B. Layton, D.S.O., M.S., 10 Welbeck Street, London, W. 1.